

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00823 240801Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, IR
SUBJ: IRAN'S ECONOMIC PLANNING

REF: (A) 77 TEHRAN 09221, (B) 77 TEHRAN 10290

1. PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION (PBO) UNDERSECRETARY FOR PLANNING MEJLOUMIAN TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 22 THAT THE OVERALL DRAFT OF IRAN'S SIXTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1978-1983) IS COMPLETE AND THAT, AT THE EARLIEST, IT COULD BE UNVEILED BEFORE NO RUZ (MARCH 21). ITS FINAL FORMAT AND LEGAL CHARACTER ARE, HOWEVER, UNDECIDED. IT MAY APPEAR WITH DETAILS (BY PROJECT AND WITH COST FIGURES) FOR FIVE YEARS WITHIN A MORE GENERAL 10-YEAR PLAN. IT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL IN THE SENSE THAT FIVE-YEAR AUTHORIZATIONS WERE OBTAINED IN PREVIOUS PLANS. GENERAL GUIDELINES, BASED UPON THE SIXTH PLAN, HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO THE GOI BUDGET FOR YEAR 2537 (BEGINS MARCH 21), WHICH IS EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

2. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, PBO IS WORKING ON LONG-TERM NATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND SECTORAL GOALS. THE
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 00823 240801Z

TWO ARE NOT NECESSARILY INTEGRATED IN THE PRESENT APPROACH, BUT THE 20-YEAR TIME FRAME IS SEEN AS THE BASIS FOR TWO 10-YEAR PLANS WHICH LATER CAN BE REFINED TO FIVE-YEAR DOCUMENTS.

3. A NEW PERSONALITY IN THE PLANNING FUNCTION IS DR. BAHMAN ABADIAN, SAID TO HAVE A GENERAL COORDINA-

TION ROLE. SINCE HE IS STILL A WORLD BANK OFFICIAL,
IT IS BELIEVED HE IS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE. WITH A
BACKGROUND AS UNDERSECRETARY OF PBO (1969/70) AND
HEAD OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN,
HE IS BY EXPERIENCE AS WELL AS ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS
CONSIDERED WELL WUALIFIED FOR THIS TEMPORARY ROLE,
ARRANGED BY HIS LONG-TIME FRIEND MINISTER OF PBO
AGAH.

4. MEJLOUMIAN (PROJECT SOURCE) SAID THAT THE
ATMOSPHERE IN PBO HAS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY AND
THERE IS A BETTER COMPREHENSION OF GOVERNMENT INTENT.
THIS SHOULD BE READ AS A COMMENTARY ON MINISTER
AGAH'S PERFORMANCE COMPARED WITH HIS PREDECESSOR
MOHAMMAD YEGANEH WHO, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SENIOR
PBO OFFICIALS, FOSTERED CONFUSION AND FAILED TO CLARIFY
WHAT IF ANY PLANNING FUNCTION PBO HAD IN THE
AMOUZEGAR GOVERNMENT. SULLIVAN

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